IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SAH HSB

In re Application of

Chesser, et al.

Serial No.: 08/869,109

Filed: June 4, 1997

For: Controlled Hydration of Starch in High Density Brine Dispersion

Group Art Unit: 1103

Examiner: Kel

Atty. Docket: B154-9245-US

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

This paper is filed to to add a dependent claim which inadvertently was omitted from the application.

AMENDMENTS

Please insert the following new claim:

The method of claim 18 wherein said water-soluble polymer comprises starch.

REMARKS

Applicants note that the claim numbering in the present application is incorrect because claim 14 inadvertently was omitted. In spite of the omission, the claim dependency is correct. Applicants hereby are adding a dependent claim which was inadvertently omitted. Because the filing fee for the application was based on 27 claims (rather than 26, based on omitted claim 14), no new fees should

be due. If Applicant's calculations are incorrect, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 02-0429 (154-9245).

Respectfully submitted/

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper, along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being forwarded to ______, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, via the United States Postal Service, First Class mail, Postage Prepaid, on Avi 1998.